



Who is eligible to apply?

The following are eligible to apply:

- ✎ a local education agency applying in collaboration with a community-based organization, public agency, institution of higher education, or other nonprofit organization; or
- ✎ a community-based organization or other nonprofit organization of demonstrated quality applying in collaboration with a local education agency.

Who is eligible to participate?

Families participating in Even Start must have a parent lacking a high school diploma and/or basic reading skills or needing English-as-a-second-language skills and have a child under the age of 8. Programs are required to serve families most in need and hardest to serve.

Use of funds

The federal share requested must not exceed 90 percent of the total cost of the program in the first year in which the applicant receives Even Start Family Literacy funds: 80 percent in the second year; 70 percent in the third year; 60 percent in the fourth year; 50 percent in the fifth through eighth year; and up to 35 percent after eight years.

For further information:

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EVEN START

of Connecticut



A Family Learning Program

**Bureau of
Career and Adult
Education**

**Connecticut State
Department of Education**



What is Even Start?

Even Start is a federally funded program that gives families access to the training and support they need to create a literate home environment and to enhance the academic achievement of their children.

It is designed to integrate early childhood education and education for parents of young children into a project that builds on existing community resources.

Funded under Part B of Title 1 of Public Law 103-382, Even Start was specifically developed to improve family literacy in low-income areas.

Even Start Family Literacy Programs provide comprehensive family-centered education programs to improve children's academic success and to increase parents' economic opportunities by:

- helping children to reach their full potential as learners (early childhood education);
- providing literacy training for their parents (adult education); and
- helping parents become full partners in the education of their children (parenting education)

Primary Program Components

Five primary components are integrated to create a comprehensive program, with all families participating in all components.

Local programs build on existing community resources to offer educational and support services to help parents and children learn and succeed together.

Local Even Start programs integrate the following primary components:

➤ ***Early Childhood and/or School-Age Education***

The early childhood component includes children from birth through age 7 and is based on developmentally appropriate activities and curriculum.

➤ ***Adult Education***

The adult education component encompasses much more than basic skills, English as a second language or preparation for the GED. It is designed so that adult students of all abilities will be equipped to think critically and creatively, set goals and solve problems, and acquire interpersonal skills that are needed for participation in society.



➤ ***Parents and Children Learning Together (PACT)***

The parent and child interaction component provides time for parents and children to work and play together as a family unit. The reciprocal learning that takes place during this time offers parents and children a chance to become true partners in their education and to transfer the new learning into the home.

➤ ***Parent Education and Support***

The time parents spend together blends the goals of parent support groups and parent education to meet the needs of the families in the program.

This component provides time and a safe place to educate and inform parents, to provide opportunities for mutual support, to offer advocacy services to families and to study particular topics related to being a parent.

➤ ***Home Visits to Support Educational Programs***

The home visit component supports families in transferring learning from the other program components to their daily lives. The home visitor acts as a coach or mentor to guide the family in developing its own literacy-based family activities.